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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,761	11/16/2001	Claire Svetlana Vishik	8285/476	1851

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EXAMINER

MARTIN, CIARA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,761

Applicant(s)

VISHIK ET AL.

Examiner

Ciara Martin

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on November 16, 2001. Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-30 represent a method and system for intelligent routing based on presence detection.

Specification

2. The use of the trademarks AOL®, Yahoo!® and MSN® has been noted in this application. Trademarks should be capitalized wherever they appear and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: paragraph 0016 first sentence reads: "The message may comprise a request which is to approved." Insert "be" between "to" and "approved". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 20, 21, 23-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,263,064 B1 in view of McDowell et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0035605 A1.

O'Neil teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a communications control center for subscribers of a unified messaging system using a web server in a data-centric network (see abstract).

6. As per claims 1, 11 and 21, O'Neil teaches:

a. receiving a message which is to be routed using a web server to one of a plurality of authorized parties comprising a first authorized party and a second authorized party (see column 8 lines 1-21, column 11 lines 8-29, fig. 1; O'Neil discloses routing incoming messages to more than one subscriber, a subscriber is an authorized party).

b. polling the Web service at least once (see column 11 lines 22-29; O'Neil discloses periodically checking the queue for outgoing messages stored in the web server, checking the queue involves polling the queue in the web server);

c. a first and second authorized party (see column 8 lines 1-21; O'Neil discloses more than one subscriber, a subscriber is an authorized party); and

d. routing the message to an active communication device associated with the second authorized party (see column 8 lines 1-21; O'Neil discloses routing incoming messages to more than one subscriber, a subscriber is an authorized party).

O'Neil fails to teach:

- a. detect presence of a first and second authorized party
- b. determining that the presence of the first authorized party remains undetected over an allocated time interval;

However, McDowell teaches a system which includes determining the presence of a device using a presence server (see abstract, fig. 1). McDowell teaches pulling presence information of a party from the presence server, after not detecting the presence then polling the presence server again to detect the presence of another party and then routing the message to the second party (see paragraphs 0045, 0048, 0050-0051, 0056; McDowell discloses a presence server that determines whether a device is on or off before sending a message to the device, it is obvious a device must be associated with a party and present in order to receive messages, pulling information involves polling a device first).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify O'Neil in view of McDowell to add the presence server component to the web server in order to detect after a specified period of time whether or not a device and subscribers are present before sending a message because this would prevent unnecessarily sending a message to a device or subscriber when it would not be received, a subscriber is an authorized party.

2. As per claims 2, 12 and 22, O'Neil teaches the message comprises a request, the first authorized party is a main approver of the request, and the second authorized

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party is a secondary approver of the request (see column 8 lines 1-21, column 11 lines 8-29; O'Neil discloses message requests which are routed from the web server to other servers to be sent to subscribers, it is obvious that a single message can be sent to more than one subscriber).

3. As per claims 3, 6, 16 and 26, O'Neil teaches a Web service and a plurality of different communication devices associated with the first and second authorized parties (see column 13 lines 8-39, fig. 1; O'Neil discloses a web server and communication devices of each subscriber such as pagers, telephone, voicemail, and computer capable of receiving email).

O'Neil fails to teach detecting the presence of the authorized parties by the Web service. However, McDowell teaches a system which includes presence determination of a device using a presence server (see paragraphs 0045, 0048, 0050-0051, 0056; McDowell discloses a presence server that determines whether a device is on or off).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify O'Neil in view of McDowell to add the presence server component to the web server because this would detect the presence of any number of subscribers using different devices and prevent unnecessarily sending a message to a device or subscriber when it would not be received, a subscriber is an authorized party.

4. As per claims 4, 7, 17 and 27, O'Neil teaches the first and second authorized parties might log in to a particular device and software application (see column 8 lines 22-30; O'Neil discloses the possibility of employing authentication for subscribers; authentication involves logging in to a device or software application).

O'Neil fails to teach detecting the presence of the first and second authorized parties. However, McDowell teaches a system which includes detecting the presence of the first and second authorized parties (see paragraphs 0049; McDowell discloses a presence server that determines the presence determination of an Internet-based Instant Message (IM) user using a presence server).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify O'Neil in view of McDowell to add the presence server component to the web server because this would detect the presence of a subscriber irregardless of the authentication state of the subscribers and prevent unnecessarily sending a message to a subscriber that was not present, a subscriber is an authorized party.

5. As per claims 5, 8, 15, 18, 25 and 28, O'Neil teaches a software application (see column 7 lines 13-30; O'Neil discloses computing devices capable of accessing the data-centric network, accessing a network involves using a software application).

O'Neil fails to teach an instant message application. However, McDowell teaches an instant message application (see paragraph 0034; McDowell discloses an instant message module, a module can be an application).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify O'Neil in view of McDowell to access the network via an instant message application because this would facilitate instantly detecting the presence of a subscriber.

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6. As per claims 9, 19 and 29, O'Neil teaches formatting a presentation of the message for the active communication device (see column 6 lines 50-65; O'Neil discloses formatting messages before being forwarded to a communications device).

7. As per claims 10, 20, and 30, O'Neil teaches a Web service and a plurality of different devices and software applications (see column 7 lines 13-30, column 8 lines 22-30; O'Neil discloses a web service and computing devices capable of accessing the data-centric network, accessing a network involves using a software application).

O'Neil fails to teach the presence information provided by the web service. However, McDowell teaches a system which includes presence determination of a device and software application using a presence server (see paragraphs 0045, 0050; McDowell discloses a presence server that determines whether a device is on or off and the presence of an instant message buddy list, an instant message application is a software application).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify O'Neil in view of McDowell to add the presence server component to the web server in order to detect the presence of a device or software application before sending a message to it because this would prevent unnecessarily sending a message to a device or subscriber that is not present, a subscriber is an authorized party.

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Conclusion

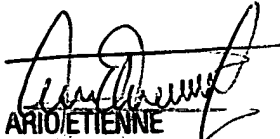
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure Hoglund et al. U.S Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0026513 A1 and Mandato et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0025280 A1.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ciara Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-7507. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30- 4:00 with second Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CM
2/7/05


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